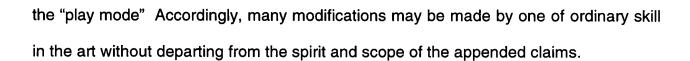
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## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- A method for controlling user interaction in a digital imaging device having a display using dynamic overlay bars, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing the digital imaging device with at least two operating modes, each of the operating modes having at least one mode-specific operation that can be performed on images;
  - b) in response to operating in either of the at least two operating modes, displaying at least one overlay bar on the display; and
  - dynamically updating the at least one overlay bar with both status information and interactive instructions, wherein the interactive instructions guide the user through at least one the mode-specific operation.
- The method of claim 1 wherein step c) further includes the step of providing the interactive instructions for guiding the user through a directed image capture operation.

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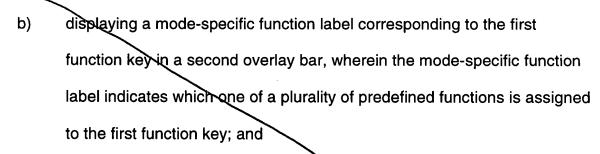
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- The method of claim 2 wherein step c) further includes the step of providing the interactive instructions for guiding the user through a sound annotation operation.
- The method of claim 2 wherein step c) further includes the step of dynamically updating the first overlay bar using an application program.
  - The method of claim 4 wherein the digital imaging device includes a display having a fist and a second horizontal sides, step b) further including the step of displaying the at least one overlay bar adjacent to a first horizontal side of the display.
  - 6 The method of claim further 5 including the step of displaying a second overlay bar adjacent to a second horizontal side of the display.
  - 7 The method of claim further 1 including the step of displaying the at least one overlay bar translucently on the display.
  - A method for controlling user interaction in a digital imaging device using dynamic overlay bars, the digital imaging device including a display, a first function key, and at least two operating modes for capturing, storing, and reviewing the images, the method comprising the steps of:
    - a) displaying mode-specific information on a first overlay bar that is displayed translucently over a current image in the display;





c) dynamically changing the mode-specific information and the modespecific function label during operation of the digital imaging device to automatically guide a user through operation of the digital imaging device.

Snb A<sub>2</sub> 10

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The method of claim 8 further including the step of:

(e) automatically changing the predefined function assigned to the first function key and the mode-specific function label based on conditions existing in the digital imaging device.

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The method of claim further including the step of:

f) manually changing the predefined function assigned to the first function key by pressing a menu key.

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The method of claim wherein step a) further includes the step of:

a1) providing the current image as a live view image during capture mode.

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The method of claim 1/2 wherein step a) further includes the step of:

a2) providing the current image as a previously stored image.



The method of claim 1/2 wherein step b) further includes the step of:

b1) displaying the mode-specific function label as a combination of an icon and text.

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A digital imaging device comprising:

an imaging device for capturing image data;

a memory coupled to the imaging device for storing the image data as captured images;

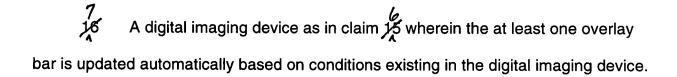
a display for displaying a captured mage;

a processor coupled to the imaging device and to the memory for controlling operation of the digital imaging device and for operating the image device in at least two operating modes; and

at least one overlay bar displayed on the display, the at least one overlay bar including a translucent background and a combination of mode-specific status information and interactive instructions, wherein the interactive instructions automatically guide a user through a mode-specific operation.

A<sub>3</sub> \ 15 A digital imaging device as in claim 14 further including a set of soft keys, wherein the at least one overlay bar further displays soft key labels to indicate which one of a plurality of functions is assigned to the corresponding soft key, wherein in response to a user pressing a first one of the soft keys, the processor applies the function assigned to the first one of the soft keys to the first captured image.

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A digital imaging device as in claim to wherein the captured image is a live image displayed during a capture mode.

A digital imaging device as in claim wherein the captured image is previously captured and stored image.